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CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling a floor controller (14, 140) of a communications
5 network (8) including a group (19) of distributed network components (12, 14) which
are configured to receive a data stream (16) from a data source (10), comprising the
steps of:

- selecting, by the floor controller (14, 140), a network component (12, 14, 140)
to take over session control of the data source (10);
- 10 - receiving, by the floor controller (14, 140), a control instruction from the
selected network component (12, 14, 140), the control instruction relating to a
control of the data source (10); and
- triggering, by the floor controller (14, 140), upon receipt of the control
15 instruction from the selected network component (12), the transmission of a
session control command to the data source (10) corresponding to the control
instruction.

2. The method of claim 1,
wherein the control instruction relates to control of the data stream (16).

20 3. The method of claim 1 or 2,
wherein the floor controller (14) belongs to the group (19) of network components
(12, 14) which receive the data stream (16).

25 4. The method of one of claims 1 to 3,
wherein the data stream (16) belongs to a streaming or gaming or gambling session
initiated by the floor controller (14, 140).

30 5. The method of one of claims 1 to 4,
wherein the floor controller (14, 140) confers at least one of a direct access to the
data source (10) and floor control at least temporarily to one of the network
components (12) of the group (19) of network components.

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6. The method of one of claims 1 to 5,
wherein the floor controller (14, 140) passes control of the data source (10) by
instructing one of the network components (12) to take over session control or upon
receipt of a request for session control from one of the network components (12).

5 7. The method of one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein a session control channel (20) for receiving control instructions is
established only between the floor controller (14, 140) and the selected network
component (12) of the group (19) of network components.

10 8. The method of one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein session control channels (20) for receiving control instructions are
established between the floor controller (140) and two or more network components
(12, 14) of the group (19) of network components.

15 9. The method of one of claims 1 to 8,
wherein for floor control purposes a floor control channel (20) is established between
the floor controller (14, 140) and at least one of the network components.

20 10. The method of one of claims 1 to 9,
wherein the floor controller (14, 140) performs at least one of an authentication and
authorization relating to at least one of the network components (12) and control
instructions.

25 11. A computer program product comprising program code portions for performing
the steps of claims 1 to 10 when the computer program product is run on a network
component (12, 14, 140).

30 12. The computer program product of claim 11, stored on a computer readable
recording medium.

35 13. A floor controller (14, 140) of a communications network (8) including a group
(19) of distributed network components (12, 14) which are configured to receive a
data stream (16) from a data source (10), the floor controller (14, 140) comprising:
- a selection unit (36) for selecting a network component (12, 14, 140) to take
over session control of the data source (10);

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- a first interface (30) for receiving control instructions from the selected network component (12, 14, 140), the control instructions relating to a control of the data source (10); and
- a second interface (32) to trigger, upon receipt of control instructions, session control commands to the data source (10) corresponding to the control instructions.

14. The floor controller of claim 13, wherein the floor controller is a mobile or stationary terminal (14) or wherein the floor controller is configured as a proxy component (140) or wherein the floor controller (14) is co-located with the data source (10).

15. A communications network (8) comprising the floor controller (14, 140) of claim 13 or 14.

16. The communications network of claim 15, further comprising a data source (10), the communications network (8) being configured such that the data source (10) receives and/or accepts session control commands only from the floor controller (14, 140).

17. A user interface (100, 112, 130) of a network component (12, 14) belonging to a group (19) of distributed network components which are configured to receive a data stream (16) from a data source (10), the user interface comprising a first control element (104, 116, 134) to control the data source (10), the first control element (104, 116, 134) being adapted to be activated to generate a control instruction which is sent to a floor controller (14, 140) selecting the network component that is to control the streaming source (10), the control instruction prompting the floor controller (14, 140) to trigger transmission of a session control command corresponding to the control instruction to the data source (10).

18. The user interface of claim 17, further comprising an second control element (124) for requesting session control, the second control element (124) being adapted to be activated to generate a request for session control which is sent to the floor controller (14, 140) and prompts the floor controller (14, 140) to confer session control to the network component (12) which requested session control.

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19. The user interface of one of claims 17 or 18, further comprising a third control element for requesting floor control, the third control element being adapted to be activated to generate a request for floor control which is sent to the floor controller (14, 140) and prompts the floor controller (14, 140) to confer floor control to the network component (12) which requested floor control.

20. The user interface of one of claims 17 to 19, further comprising a fourth control element for requesting direct access to the data source (10), the fourth control element being adapted to be activated to generate a request for direct access which is sent to the floor controller (14, 140) that prompts the owner of that direct access (14, 140) to confer direct access to the network component (12) which requested direct access.

21. The user interface of one of claims 17 to 20, further comprising a fifth control element being adapted to be activated to instruct one of the network components to take over at least one of a session control, floor control, and direct access to the data source.

22. The user interface of one of claims 17 to 21, further comprising an indicator element (116, 120, 122, 124, 134, 136) for indicating to an operator of the network component (12, 14, 140) that at least one of session control, floor control, and direct access has been conferred to him or to an operator of another network component.